MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION

CYCLE SAFETY INFO

National Resource Office
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State Motorcycle Operator Licensing—1989

This is the thirteenth annual cycle safety information sheet reporting state procedures for licensing motorcyclists. This information is the result of a survey sent to licensing authorities in the nation's 51 licensing jurisdictions.

Licensing practices vary from state to state. In the past few years, these practices have become more standardized as states began adopting the Motorcycle Operator Skill Test (MOST), the *Motorcycle Operator Manual (MOM)*, the *Motorcycle Operator Manual (MOM)* Knowledge Test, the Alternate MOST, the Motorcylist Licensing Skill Test (MLST) and Sharing the Road With Motorcycles information.

A growing number of states are adopting new motorcycle operator licensing programs each year. The Foundation's licensing department provides technical assistance and examiner training for states adopting the MOST, the Alternate MOST, the MIT, or the MLST.

The Motorcycle Operator Manual (MOM)

The *Motorcycle Operator Manual (MOM)* includes information on proper protective gear, handling different road surfaces and reacting to emergencies. License applicants in a study group increased their knowledge 15 percent by reading the manual. MSF provides free printer's negatives on a loan basis to states adopting the manual.

The Motorcycle Knowledge Test

The Motorcycle Knowledge Test was developed from the contents of the *Motorcycle Operator Manual*. Using multiple choice questions and line drawings, the test emphasizes areas critical to safe riding. MSF will provide a set of tests and slides for duplication to states using automated testing machines.

The Motorcycle Skill Test Practice Guide

The Practice Guide is designed to provide motorcycle license applicants with a series of exercises that they can practice in a parking lot before they take their skills test. These exercises are not meant to replace a rider education course but simply to provide practice on necessary skills before testing. MSF provides free printer's negatives on a loan basis for states that would like to provide this booklet to motorcycle applicants.

The Sharing The Road With Motorcycles Information

Studies have shown that most motorcycle accidents are caused by drivers of other vehicles. MSF has developed information for state driver's manuals titled *Sharing The Road With Motorcycles*. It gives other drivers information on conditions and situations commonly faced by motorcyclists.

The Motorcycle Operator Skill Test (MOST)

The MOST was the first off-street test developed in the early 1970's and still is being used by some states today. This test contains nine exercises and employs the use of sophisticated timing equipment. The Alternate MOST and MLST were designed as less expensive alternatives to be conducted in more constricted areas.

The Alternate Motorcycle Operator Skill Test (Alternate MOST)

The Alternate MOST was developed specifically for those areas with limited space available and employs the use of manual timing equipment. It includes seven exercises that test basic skills in an off-street setting.

The Motorcyclist Licensing Skill Test (MLST)

The MLST is the most recently developed off-street test drawing on lessons learned from tests that had come before it. This test combines administrative practicality with test reliability and rider safety. Applicants are required to complete a series of three exercises in such a manner as to allow examiners to evaluate riding performance objectively.

The Motorcyclist In-Traffic Test (MIT)

Several states do not have off-street testing facilities or prefer to administer an in-traffic test. The MIT consists of 21 test situations considered to be most important for the safe operation of a motorcycle in traffic. The applicant is scored by an examiner following the motorcycle in another vehicle.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's purpose is improving the safety of motorcyclists on the nation's streets and highways. To reduce motorcycle accidents and injuries, the Foundation has programs in rider education, licensing improvement, public information and research. These programs are designed for both motorcyclists and motorists. For the beginning or experienced rider training course nearest you, call the national toll-free telephone number (800) 447-4700. A national, nonprofit organization, MSF is sponsored by five leading motorcycle manufacturers: Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Suzuki and BMW.

1989

STATE	TYPE OF SKILL TEST	MOM ADOPTION	MOM KNOWLEDGE TEST	WAIVER FOR RIDER EDUCATION	SHARING THE ROAD WITH MOTORCYCLES ADOPTION	NUMBER OF MOTORCYCLE TESTING SITES	NUMBER OF DRIVER LICENSE EXAMINERS	NUMBER OF LICENSED DRIVERS (AS OF 6/30/88)	NUMBER OF LICENSED MOTORCYCLE OPERATORS (AS OF 6/30/88)	NUMBER OF MOTOR CYCLE REGISTRATIONS	TYPE OF VEHICLE REGISTERED AS MOTORCYCLE
Alabama	None	No	No	N	No	N/A	159	2,773,636	9,600	72,000	C,F,G,I,J
Alaska	MOST/Alternate	Yes	No	N	Yes	32	36	376,873	N/A	13,273	D,F,G,I,J
Arizona	MOST/Alternate/ MLST	Yes	Yes	N	No	17	159	2,800,000	1,306	36,281	C,F,G,I,J
Arkansas	Off-Street/Alternate	No	No	N	No	40	32	1,662,462	62,839	24,289	C,E,F,I,J
California	Lollipop	Yes	Yes	N	Yes	162	500	18,025,955	784,226	699,200	A,C,D,E,F,H,I,J,K,M
Colorado	Alternate/ On-Street	Yes	Yes	S	Yes	88	154	2,310,349	114,541	113,176	C,D,E,F,J,M
Connecticut	Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	No	11	79	2,926,801	167,857	54,789	C,D,E,F,H,I,J,M
Delaware	Alternate	Yes	Yes	K,S	Yes	4	35	481,345	30,530	7,529	F,J (over 5500)
D.C.	MOST/Alternate	No	No	N	Yes	1	10	387,187	8,550	9,219	D,E,F,G
Florida	MOST/Alternate	Yes	Yes	K,S	No	31	1,033	10,241,063	379,637	215,290	A,C,D,E,F,J,K,M
Georgia	MOST/Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	Yes	96	160	4,343,470	184,098	79,887	C,D,E,F,I,J
Hawaii	Alternate/On-Street	No	No	N	Yes	13	55	608,697	19,117	11,515	C,D,E,F,I,J,M
Idaho	None	No	No	N,S	No	N/A	44	690,833	N/A	30,000	C,F,G,H,I,J
Illinois	Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	Yes	104	470	7,533,087	369,652	241,604	C,D,E,F,G,H
Indiana	Alternate	Yes	Yes	S	No	69	110	3,590,113	180,467	104,678	F,J
Iowa	Off-Street	Yes	Yes	S	No	143	96	2,000,000	249,154	163,521	C,D,E,F,I,J
Kansas	MOST/Alternate	Yes	Yes	K,S	No	108	156	1,678,713	231,098	69,530	A,B,C,D,E,F
Kentucky	Off-Street/On-Street	No	No	N	No	120	105	2,358,247	77,691	35,435	A,B,C,D,E,F
Louisiana	Off-Street	Yes	Yes		No	80	184	2,717,541	81,747	38,671	C,F,N
Maine	Alternate/MLT	No	No	K	No	28	45	870,716	64,250	37,676	C,D,E,F,G,H,J,M
Maryland	Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	No	14	110	3,009,476	172,460	58,000	F,M
Massachusetts	On-Street/Off-Street	No	No	N	Yes	55	135	4,197,772	246,608	61,700	A,D,F,H,J
Michigan	Alternate	No	No	S	N	76	175	7,193,724	484,633	161,626	C,D,E,F,I,J,K
Minnesota	Alternate	Yes	No	N	No	101	100	3,035,774	286,424	164,500	C,D,E,F,I,J,K,M
Mississippi	Alternate/MLT	Yes	Yes	N	No	86	56	1,800,000	51,520	N/A	F,G,H,I,J
Missouri	MOST	Yes	Yes	N	Yes	125	151	3,070,790	262,256	71,831	F,I,J
Montana	Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	Yes	59	29	681,179	29,900	68,487	A,B,F
Nebraska	MLT/Alternate	Yes	Yes	S	Yes	45	69	1,800,000	48,838	31,569	C,D,E,F,H
Nevada	MOST/Alternate/ MLST	Yes	Yes	N	Yes	28	28	800,042	60,887	17,874	A,C,D,E,F,I,J,M
New Hampshire	MOST	No	No	N	No	13	34	783,748	36,772	30,481	C,D,E,F,J
New Jersey	Off-Street/On-Street	Yes	Yes	N	No	37	75	5,300,000	244,000	49,883	C,D,E,F,G,J,M
New Mexico	MOST/MLST	Yes	Yes	K,S	No	50	50	1,034,647	50,000	40,127	C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J
New York	On-Street	Yes	Yes	N	Yes	97	160	10,029,037	452,644	267,524	F
North Carolina	Off-Street	Yes	Yes	N	Yes	189	167	4,318,723	227,167	N/A	C,D,E,F,H,J
North Dakota	Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	Yes	57	25	434,046	16,496	12,099	D,E,F
Ohio	Off-Street	Yes	No	N	No	88	176	7,500,000	571,060	358,243	D,F
Oklahoma	MIT	No	No	N	No	104	63	2,794,110	N/A	67,800	F
Oregon	Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	No	45	203	3,009,310	196,809	70,949	C,D,E,F,I,J
Pennsylvania	Off-Street	Yes	Yes	K,S	No	77	101	7,691,269	452,754	190,345	F,J
Rhode Island	Alternate	No	No	K	No	3	15	600,000	40,000	25,000	C,D,J,P,I
South Carolina	Off-Street	No	Yes	N	No	52	125	2,279,486	64,604	34,220	A,D,F,H,I,J
South Dakota	MOST/Alternate	Yes	Yes	K,S	Yes	88	45	520,898	N/A	38,956	A,B,C,D,F,G
Tennessee	Alternate/On-Street	Yes	Yes	S	Yes	103	198	3,286,051	188,880	114,071	F,G,I,J
Texas	On-Street	Yes	Yes	N	No	346	336	11,582,925	681,464	252,382	F,G,I,J
Utah	MOST/MLST	Yes	Yes	N	No	15	40	1,088,000	125,000	106,000	D,E,F,G
Vermont	Alternate	No	No	N	No	10	13	418,546	45,224	21,108	E,F,G,J,K
Virginia	Alternate/On-Street	Yes	Yes	S	Yes	115	184	4,070,041	211,922	72,183	C,D,E,F,H,J
Washington	Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	Yes	57	289	3,187,309	264,525	126,387	D,F,H,J
West Virginia	None	No	No	N	No	57	41	1,300,000	88	26,511	C,D,F,G,H,I,J
Wisconsin	MIT	Yes	Yes	N	Yes	95	180	3,317,719	299,497	167,055	D,E,F
Wyoming	Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	Yes	35	78	373,014	59,672	20,155	B,C,D,F,H,J

1 In some sites as a pilot or research project
2 Some sites
3 Only 14 and 15 year olds licensed

Parts of Motorcycle Test Waived for Rider Course Graduates

P — Partial
N — None
K — Knowledge
S — Skill

MOST Motorcycle Operator Skill Test
Alternate Alternate MOST
MIT Motorcyclist In Traffic Test
Alternate MIT
MLST Motorcyclist Licensing Skill Test

Vehicles Registered as Motorcycles

A 3 wheel all terrain vehicle
B All terrain with more than 3 wheels
C 3 wheel service vehicle (cushman type)
D Modified 3 wheel (straddle seat)
E Modified 3 wheel (bench seat)
F Motorcycle with side car
G Mopeds
H No pedal (small displacement 2 wheel vehicle without pedals)
I Mini bikes
J Motorbikes
K Golf Carts
L Snowmobiles
M 3 wheels with rear axle tread width under 25

STATE MOTORCYCLE OPERATOR LICENSING PROCEDURES

1989

STATE	SPECIAL LICENSE OR ENDORSEMENT	DURATION OF LICENSE	MINIMUM AGE WITH DRIVER EDUCATION	LEARNER'S PERMIT	MINIMUM AGE WITHOUT DRIVER EDUCATION	RIDER EDUCATION PEREQUISITE TO LICENSING	SKILL TEST ADMINISTRATION ON APPOINTMENT (APPT) OR WALK-IN (WI) BASIS	RE-EXAMINATION REQUIRED	VISION	Reexamined for: KNOWLEDGE	Reexamined for: OFF-STREET	Reexamined for: IN-TRAFFIC
Alabama	Yes[4]	1	16	No	14 16[1]	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alaska	B1	5	16[1]	2 yrs	14	No	APPT.WI	Yes[1,14]	Yes	No	No	No
Arizona	B,C	4	16	No	16	No	WI	Yes[2]	Yes	Yes[2]	Yes[2,11]	No
Arkansas	MCYC	2/4	16[8]	No	16[8]	No	WI	No[1]	No	No	No	No
California	Class 4	1	16	1 yr	18	Yes	APPT	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Colorado	M	4	16	180 days	16	No	APPT.WI	Yes[1,14]	Yes	Yes	No	No
Connecticut	107,105 104,105	4	16	60 days	16	No	APPT	No	No	No	No	No
Delaware	MC	4/5	16	60 days	18	Yes	WI	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
D.C.	7,8	4	16	60 days	16	No	APPT	Yes[14] 70+	Yes 70+	Yes 70+	Yes	Yes
Florida	W,T	4/6	15	180 days	15	No	APPT	Yes[2]	Yes	No	No	No
Georgia	Class 2	4	16	6 mo.	16	No	WI	Yes[14]	Yes	No	No	No
Hawaii	Type 2	2/4	15	90 days	15	No	APPT.WI	Yes[1,14]	Yes	Yes	No	No
Idaho	None	N/A	14	No	16	No	APPT	No	Yes	No	No	No
Illinois	L,M	4	16[1]	1 yr	18	Yes[1]	WI	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes[2]	Yes[2]
Indiana	M	4/4	16	1 yr	16	No	WI	Yes[5,13]	Yes	Yes[2]	No	No
Iowa	B	2/4	16[1]	2 yrs	18	Yes[1]	APPT	Yes[1,14]	Yes	No	No	No
Kansas	D	4	14	6 mo.	14	No	WI	Yes[8]	Yes	Yes	No	No
Kentucky	Yes[4]	4	16	6 mo.	16	No	APPT.WI	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	T	4/5	15	No	15	No	WI	No	Yes	No	No	No
Maine	LD	4	16	1 yr	21	Yes[1]	APPT	Yes	Yes[2]	No	No	No
Maryland	E	4	16	180 days	18	No	WI	Yes[1,14]	Yes	No	No	No
Massachusetts	M	4	16[1]	1 yr	16	No	APPT	Yes[1,14]	Yes	No	No	No
Michigan	CY	4	16	150 days	18	Yes[1]	APPT	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Minnesota	C1	4	16	45 days	16	Yes	APPT.WI	Yes[1,14]	Yes	No	No	No
Mississippi	8 or E	4	15	60 days	15	No	WI	Yes[1,14]	No	No	No	No
Missouri	M,W	3	16	60 days	16	No	WI	Yes[2]	Yes	No	No	No
Montana	M	4	15	6 mo.	16	No	APPT.WI	Yes[1,14]	Yes	No	No	No
Nebraska	B	4	16	1 yr	16	No	APPT	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Nevada	Class 4[10]	4	16	6 mo.	16	No	APPT.WI	Yes[1,14]	Yes	No	No	No
New Hampshire	MC	4	16	60 days	18	No	APPT.WI	Yes[1,14]	Yes	No	No	No
New Jersey	A,E,F	4	17	60 days	17	No	APPT	Yes[1,14]	Yes	No	No	No
New Mexico	4 or 3	4	15	6 mo.	16	Yes[1]	APPT.WI	Yes[1,14]	Yes	No	No	No
New York	Class 7,8	3	16	1 yr	16	No	APPT	Yes[1,14]	Yes	No	No	No
North Carolina	A,B,C	4	16	N/A	18	No	APPT.WI	Yes[2]	Yes	No	No	No
North Dakota	4	1	14	6 mo.	16	Yes[11]	APPT	Yes[14]	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ohio	5	4	16	6 mo.	18	No	APPT	Yes[14]	Yes	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	4	14	30 days	14[1]	No	WI	No[14]	No	No	No	No
Oregon	M1,M2	4	16	1 yr	16	No	APPT	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pennsylvania	Yes	2/4		120 days	16	No	APPT.WI	No	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	H	1	16	30 days	N/A	Yes	APPT	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Carolina	Class 4	4	16	6 mo.	16	No	APPT.WI	Yes[14]	Yes	No	No	No
South Dakota	Yes	4		No	14	No	WI	Yes[8]	No	No	No	No
Tennessee	M(7-1-89) Mtrcycle	4	16	90 days	16	No	WI	Yes[2]	No	No	No	No
Texas	M	4	16	2 yrs	18	Yes[1]	WI	Yes[14]	Yes	No	No	No
Utah	M	4	16	6 months	N/A	No	WI	Yes[1,14]	Yes	Yes	No	No
Vermont	1,M,A,B	2/4	16	60 days	18	No	APPT	Yes[14]	Yes	No	No	No
Virginia	C	5	16	1 yr	N/A	No	WI	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Washington	1,2, or 3	4	16	90 days	18	Yes[1]	APPT	Yes[14]	Yes	No	No	No
West Virginia		N/A	16	60 days	16	No	WI	No	No	No	No	No
Wisconsin	Yes[16]	1	16	6 mo.	18	No	APPT	Yes[14]	Yes	No	No	No
Wyoming	M,IM TM	4	16	1 yr	16	No	WI	Yes[1,14]	Yes	No	No	No

1 Under age 18.
2 If driving record warrants.
3 At examiner's discretion.
4 "Motorcycle Only" applicants.
5 Age 69 and older required to pass complete exam every 4 years.
6 In traffic test required for 75 years of age or older.
7 Age 14 if only used back and forth to school.
8 Under 16 restricted to 250cc or less.
9 Only when expired or revoked.
10 Age 16-17 year olds.
11 16 year olds must have basic driver education and motorcycle driver education.
12 Between 16 and 21 must complete a driver education course.
13 Ages 14 and 15.
14 If physical condition or medical problem requires it.
15 After age 40.
16 Include Cycle Operation - written on license.
17 If available in that area.
18 Restrictions: U if applicant takes skill test. X if skill test is taken on 3 wheel motorcycle.

1989

PERMIT HOLDERS

STATE	MOTORCYCLE KNOWLEDGE TEST ADMINISTERED BEFORE ISSUING LEARNER'S PERMIT	BASIC SKILL TEST ADMINISTERED BEFORE ISSUING LEARNER'S PERMIT	ALLOWED TO RENEW MOTORCYCLE LEARNER'S PERMIT	TIMES M/C PERMIT CAN BE RENEWED WITHOUT K-TEST	COST FOR RENEWAL	PERMITS MANDATORY BEFORE LICENSURE	RESTRICTIONS ON LEARNER'S PERMIT
Alabama	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alaska	Yes	No	Yes	No limit	$3.00	No	4,5[1]
Arizona	Yes	No	No		$5.00	No	1,6,16
Arkansas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
California	Yes	No	Yes	Zero	$10.00	Yes	1,2,3
Colorado	Yes	No	Yes	No limit	$6.50	Yes (under 18 yrs)	16,10
Connecticut	Yes	No	Yes	One	$3.25	No	1,2,3,9
Delaware	Yes	No	Yes	One	$2.00	Yes	1,2,5
D.C.	Yes	No	Yes	Two	$7.00	No	1,5,9,11
Florida	Yes	No	Yes	Five	$4.00	No	1,16
Georgia	Yes	No	Yes	No limit	$1.50	No	1,2,3,5
Hawaii	Yes	No	Yes	One	$1.00-$5.00[2]	No	1,2
Idaho	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Illinois	Yes	No	Yes	Zero	$10.00	No	2,4
Indiana	Yes	No	Yes	Zero	$5.00	Yes	1,2,5,16
Iowa	Yes	No	Yes	No limit	$8.00	No	4
Kansas	Yes	No	Yes	Zero	$2.00	No	1,2
Kentucky	Yes	No	Yes	No limit	$2.00	Yes	5,8
Louisiana	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maine	Yes	No	Yes	One	$10.00	No	1,2,5
Maryland	Yes	No	Yes	No limit	$20.05	Yes	8,19
Massachusetts	Yes	No	Yes	Zero	$5.00	No	1,2
Michigan	Yes	No	No	Zero	$7.50	No	1,2,4
Minnesota	Yes	No	Yes	One	$2.50	No	1,2,3,5
Mississippi	Yes	No	Yes	No Limit	$1.00	Yes	1,2,4,5,11
Missouri	Yes	No	Yes	Three	$1.00	No	1,2
Montana	Yes	No	Yes	One	$2.00	No	4,5 (under 18 yrs)
Nebraska	No	No	Yes	No limit	$3.00	No	13
Nevada	Yes	No	Yes	No limit	$10.00	No	1,2,3,12
New Hampshire	No	No	Yes	Three	$20.00	No	1,2,3,4 (under 18 yrs)
New Jersey	No	No	Yes	Zero	$5.00	Yes	4
New Mexico	Yes	No	Yes	One	$2.00	No	None
New York	Yes	No	Yes	One	$9.00	Yes	1,4
North Carolina	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	One	$10.00	Yes	1,2
Ohio	Yes	No	Yes	No limit	$5.00	No	1,2,3,5
Oklahoma	Yes	No	Yes	No limit	$14.00	Yes	12
Oregon	Yes	No	No			No	1,2,5,12
Pennsylvania	No	No	Yes	No limit	$7.00	Yes	1,2,4,5,7,8
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	$1.00	Yes	2,13
South Carolina	Yes	No	Yes	One	$2.00	Yes[17]	9
South Dakota	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	$6.00	N/A	N/A
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	No		$17.00	Yes[17]	1,2,3,4,15
Texas	Yes	No	Yes	No limit	$16.00	No	1,2,4,6,16
Utah	Yes	No	Yes	Zero	$8.00	No	1,2,3,5 (under 18 yrs)
Vermont	Yes	No	Yes	No limit	$3.00	No	1,2,9
Virginia	Yes	No	No	One	$3.00	No	4
Washington	Yes	No	Yes	One	$7.00	No	1,2,3,11
West Virginia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wisconsin	Yes	No	Yes	Zero	$15.00	No	1,2,5,8
Wyoming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Zero	$5.00	Yes	1

*Times M/C lerner's permit can be renewed without K-test

1. No passengers
2. Daylight only
3. Restricted roadways
4. Supervision
5. Helmet usage
6. Cycle size limitations
7. Speed limits
8. Eye protection
9. In-state only
10. Depending on county
11. Must also have valid WA driver's license
12. Must be in visual sight of licensed driver 21 years old
13. Must be in visual sight of a licensed motorcycle operator
14. Limited to a 20 mile radius
15. Maximum engine size 650cc
16. Corrective lens if needed
17. Permits only issued at the age of 15, must be 16 to get a motorcycle license